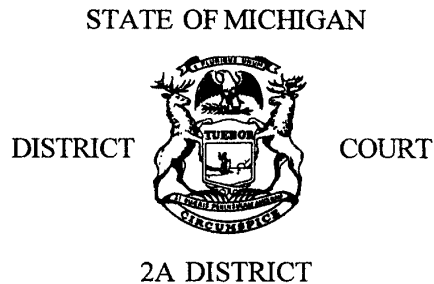


Judge
James E. Sheridan
Lenawee County
1st Division



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September 1, 2005

State of Michigan
Supreme Court Clerk
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM File No. 2004-02 and ADM File No. 2004-60

Dear Clerk,

I am writing as follow-up to my letter of August 31, 2005, expressing my opposition to the proposed amendment of Rule 8.103(4) and Rule 9.205(B), and my deep opposition for the Caseload Management standards for divorce cases.

There is an additional problem with the time limits for divorce cases. They are upside down. The marriages that most likely should end are those with the highest levels of conflict. Yet, they are also the ones which tend to be litigated to death, with endless motions and hearings. Those are the ones which will, as a practical matter, make up the 2% with the longest time period to come to judgment.

The cases with the lowest conflict, which are about one third of all divorces, are the ones we should be given the greatest opportunity to explore options such as counseling, the SMILE program and Retrouvaille. Yet, these cases are also the ones with the fewest hearings, because the parties are not at each other's throats. However, they are the ones which we will be rushing through to meet the time lines.

Thus the cases with no real chance of reconciliation are given the longest to litigate and reconcile. However, those with a real chance of reconciliation are the ones given the least opportunity to reconcile. If these guidelines are to be in the best interests of the public, the parties and the courts, they need to be revamped. Enforcing them, however, with threats of the Judicial Tenure Commission is the functional equivalent of using a club to enforce a bad policy.

Again, I urge the Court to reconsider the time lines for divorces. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

James E. Sheridan
Chief Judge
2A District Court